

MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN AND THE UNITED STATES

I. Economic and Business Connections

A. Investment

U.S. Investment in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

- There are 20 U.S. companies in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern where U.S. shareholders hold at least 51% of the stock.
- U.S. companies provide more than 4,000 jobs
- The top investor in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Caterpillar Motoren generated \$36million in revenue in 2007.

Five Top U.S. Companies (2006) Employees Sales (in €)

(Source: Rostock Chamber of Commerce [IHK])

<u>Five Top U.S. Companies (2006)</u> (Source: Rostock Chamber of Commerce [IHK])	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Sales (in €)</u>
TRW Airbag Systems	462	187 million
Lear Corporation Electrical and Electronics	272	28.6 million
Seehafen Rostock Umschlags-GmbH	242	33.1 million
Caterpillar	140	N/A
Best Western Hotel	N/A	N/A

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Investment in the U.S.

In July 2009, Nordex Inc., one of the largest wind turbine producers in the world, started building a plant in Jonesboro (Arkansas). The plant is expected to be completed in 2010. Nordex is investing \$100 million and creating 700 direct jobs. The Jonesboro operation will be an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) producing one of the largest classes of wind turbines in the world, the 2.5 megawatt N90 and N100. In the US, each of these utility-scale turbines is capable of generating enough renewable energy to power about 700 homes. Nordex was the first manufacturer to build a turbine this large in 2000.

Recent Success Stories

(Source: Invest-in-Germany.com)

- **TRW Airbag Systems GmbH** is a subsidiary of TRW Automotive Inc. and produces more than 20 million gas generators for automotive airbag systems annually at its Laage location near Rostock. Within TRW Automotive, TRW Airbag systems belong to the passenger protection systems division. Almost 500 employees work in three shifts six days a week.
- **Caterpillar Motoren Rostock GmbH** is a subsidiary of Caterpillar Motoren GmbH & Co. KG Kiel. In 1999, the company bought one part of the former diesel engine factory in Rostock as an additional factory for the assembly of the biggest MaK engine line (M 43). The company has been trading under the name Caterpillar Motoren Rostock GmbH since August 2000. Medium speed four-stroke diesel engines and gas engines which are used for onshore ships and plants are produced in Kiel and Rostock. Thanks to the production of the biggest Caterpillar diesel engine line, the company has become one of the most important suppliers in the shipping industry. To date Caterpillar has invested around € 32 million in Rostock, creating around 140 jobs. Further investment of around € 50 million and the generation of 100 workplaces are planned for the Rostock location.

- **AIDA Cruises** is the market leader among the German cruise providers with 259,000 passengers annually and a turnover of around € 451 million in 2007 – accounting for a German market share of 35%. The company employs 3,000 employees from 25 nations. The AIDA fleet consists of four club ships: AIDAcara, AIDAvita, AIDAdiva and AIDAaura. Orders for five more ships of the new AIDA generation have been placed with the Meyer shipyard in Papenburg, Lower Saxony. The AIDA fleet belongs to Carnival Corporation, which is the world's largest cruise ship corporation. AIDA Cruises headquarters are situated in Rostock.

B. Trade

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Exports to U.S.	173,119,000 €	192,068,000 €	190,110,000 €
Imports from U.S.	32,437,000 €	34,698,000 €	47,846,000 €
Total Trade (Goods)			

(Source: Statistisches Amt Mecklenburg-Vorpommern <http://www.statistik-mv.de/berichte>)

U.S. Trade with Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

- In 2008 the U.S. exported €73.4 million in goods to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. In 2008, IT products accounted for 22,33% and mineral oil for 19,55% of U.S. exports to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Trade in the U.S.

- In 2008 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern exported €246.2 million in goods to the U.S. (4.13% of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's total exports). Electronic equipment accounted for 21,76% and machines (with no engines) for agricultural vehicles aerial and road vehicles for 16,72% of all Mecklenburg-Vorpommern exports to the U.S.

II. People-to-People Connections

A. Tourism from the U.S.

- Mecklenburg-Vorpommern gained popularity among American tourists following U.S. President George Bush's visit to Stralsund in 2006. Popularity increased globally following the 2007 G8 Summit in Heiligendamm.
- Approximately 5,000 Americans visited Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in 2007. A further 7,000 visited this northern German state as passengers on cruise ships, which stopped in Warnemünde.
- Based on studies of average spending for tourists – particularly cruise ship tourists – it is estimated that American tourists spent approximately euro 1 million in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in 2007.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Overnight stays by U.S. tourists	10,120	13,500	13,360

(Source: Statistisches Amt Mecklenburg-Vorpommern <http://www.statistik-mv.de/berichte>)

B. Resident Citizens and Emigrants

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
U.S. citizens in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	222	120	242
(These figures do not include dual citizens.)			

III. Research & Technology Connections

A. Universities and Technical Colleges

- Rostock University and North Carolina State University have been cooperating in the areas of research, teaching and culture since 1995. In 2008 the cooperation agreement was replaced by awarding joint doctorate degrees.

B. Research Institutes

- The Competence Center – Functional Genomics (CC - FG) in Life Sciences of the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University Greifswald is developing into one of the major research hubs of the entire university with state-of-the-art facilities for transcriptomics and high-throughput proteomics. One of the goals of the Competence Center is to increase its international recognition and reputation by integrating into international functional genomics research networks such as the International E. coli Alliance (IECA), in which U.S. universities, research institutes and industry play a preeminent role.

C. Companies

- The U.S. is a significant market for the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern life science industry. The Federal Drug Administration serves as an important institution to companies in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as it sets international standards for the admission of new medicines and therapies and regulates access to the U.S. market.
- A selection of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern companies maintaining contact and cooperation with the U.S. are Amplius GmbH (Rostock), Chromatec GmbH (Greifswald), Invivo Germany GmbH (Schwerin), NPZ Saat-zucht Hans Lembke KG (Malchow/Poel) Prophyta GmbH (Wismar), and VisiTec Microtechnik GmbH (Grevesmühlen).

IV. Educational & Cultural Exchanges

A. Educationa

- **Annual Study in the U.S. Lecture Series in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern:** During the past years, Consulate General Hamburg has arranged for an annual series of lectures about study opportunities and internships in the U.S. at institutions of higher education in Greifswald, Wismar, Rostock and Neubrandenburg. Due to the series, high school and university students as well as staff of international offices receive up-to-date information about educational opportunities in the U.S.
- **Successful Eastern German Teachers Visitor Program in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern:** Nine teachers from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern spent two weeks in the U.S in February 2006, participating in a State Department Voluntary Visitor project on the U.S. political, educational and social systems. The group was full of praise for the program, describing it as diverse, enriching and creating a positive impression of the U.S. Results the teachers reported on included an exchange of teaching materials with their U.S. colleagues, a DVD on the U.S. visit that has been used in classes and exchanged with fellow teachers, a transatlantic class project linking two high schools and follow-up visits of American teachers to name only

some of the many concrete examples of new German-American educational projects. The program provided the teachers with invaluable experiences and intercultural and political input for their English language courses, helping them, to quote one teacher, “to reduce prejudices and fears with regard to the U.S.” In October 2008, two additional teachers from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern took part in a similar project.

- **America@your library Youth Exchange Road Show Comes to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern:** In 2006, 2007, and 2008 Consulate General Hamburg offered a series of exchange fairs with “America @ your library” partners in Wismar, Neubrandenburg, Greifswald, Stralsund, Schwerin, and Rostock. High school and university students, parents, teachers and young professionals had a chance to meet with representatives and returnees from up to 6 exchange organizations. The organizations either took part in the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange or offered au-pair stays and/or summer jobs in the U.S. and included AFS, AIFS, AYUSA, Experiment, Partnership International and YFU.

B. Partnerships

- **Sister City Partnerships:** Crivitz - Village of Crivitz, WI; Greifswald - Newport News, VA; Teterow - Tri Cities, TN/VA
- Since 1994 the state of **Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Mecklenburg County, NC** has had a special relationship, which has been strengthened through private and professional exchanges. Further, the Hanseatic City of Rostock entered a sister city agreement with Raleigh, NC in 2001 and North Carolina State University and the University of Rostock have had an educational partnership since 1995. In May 2009, a North Carolina delegation visited Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to learn about the use of renewable energy. Visitors included Chairperson of the County Commission Boards of Mecklenburg-County Jennifer Roberts and President of Duke Energy for the Carolinas Brett Carter. In 2008 the so-called “Mecklenburg Connection” was founded, which is an initiative to link up the film festivals in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Charlotte/U.S.A.. In 2009, the U.S.A./North Carolina is guest country of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Film Art Festival.
- During the first week of June 2008, a **trade delegation** from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern headed by Minister of Economics Juergen Seidel traveled to North Carolina in order to celebrate and strengthen the ties between the two regions and recognize the common desire for cooperation in business and trade. While there, North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Jim Fain and Minister Seidel signed a “Joint Declaration Concerning Trade and Economic Development Cooperation.” The declaration is hoped to be a strong first step towards increased business, trade, and scientific opportunities between the two states.
- In **meetings between 17 companies from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Duke Energy**, the groundwork was also laid for economic cooperation in renewable energy between Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and North Carolina.

U.S. Consulate General Hamburg. August 2009.